

The Department of Human Services believes all individuals have a right to be safe from violence.

We are ready to help.

We are committed to assisting families in attaining safety.

We know physical, emotional, and sexual abuse happens to many people.

Victims of abuse deserve services that increase their safety.

Perpetrators of abuse need services that assure their accountability.

You are authorized for domestic violence services that you may access at any time you need them. You can access these services by calling your local DHS office.

If you are in immediate danger, always call 911.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

**Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD)
1-800-787-3224**

Additional resources, including a list of domestic violence programs, may be found at the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board and the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence websites:

www.michigan.gov/domesticviolence

www.mcadsv.org

QUANTITY: 1,000,000
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AUTHORITY: DHS Director

Department of Human Services (DHS) will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to a DHS office in your area.

DHS Publication 859 (1-06)

**Is someone hurting
you or your
children?**

**You have a right to
be safe!**

**At DHS, we want to
help**

**You may be
temporarily excused
from
certain program
requirements**



**State of Michigan
Department of Human Services**

At DHS we ASK because we CARE!

At some time during your interview process, we will ask if you are experiencing physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.

If you decide not to tell us today, you can tell us at any time you choose.

Telling us is VOLUNTARY! You can tell us only as much as you want.

There are things we can do to help, if you choose to tell us. The information you give us about abuse is strictly confidential.*

*We are required to make a report to Child Protective Services if a child is being abused or neglected, and we will work with you to eliminate that threat for your child(ren).

Ask Yourself

Does my partner:

- ◆ ever hit, slap, punch, kick, or strike me in anyway;
- ◆ belittle me or call me names;
- ◆ force me to do sexual acts against my will;
- ◆ keep me from working;
- ◆ force me to do things I don't want to do;
- ◆ control who I can see or talk to;
- ◆ control the money;
- ◆ threaten to harm me, my child(ren), friends, relatives, or pets;
- ◆ break or destroy things that are special to me or my child(ren);
- ◆ use or threaten to use weapons such as knives, guns, etc. against me or people I care about;
- ◆ do **anything else** that makes me fear what might happen to me or my child(ren)?

You are not alone!

Physical, emotional, and sexual abuse happens to many women regardless of race, religion, class, sexual orientation, or educational level.

Your safety is important to us!

We can help you be safe by:

- waiving requirements that affect your safety;
 - referring you to local resources and;
 - working with you to increase your safety.
- ▶ You may be temporarily excused from certain TANF requirements that may put you and/or your children at risk of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, expose you to further harm, or unfairly penalize you. The requirements that you may be temporarily excused from include:
- working
 - looking for a job
 - going to school
 - participating in job training
- ▶ We will be asking you to help us and the **Office of Child Support** in obtaining a child support order for your child(ren). You may request an exemption from this requirement if giving information about the parent(s) of your child(ren) or starting a paternity or child support case may put you in danger of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, or if your child(ren) were conceived because of rape or incest.

If you have questions or concerns, please ask us for more information.